HEL Determinations
Introduction

The Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) will be used to determine if a field contains a soil map unit that is considered highly erodible land (HEL). USLE will not be used for conservation planning. All planning associated with soil erosion prediction for sheet erosion will be conducted with the most current version of the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE).

The erodibility index for a soil map unit is determined by dividing the potential erodibility for the soil map unit by the soil loss tolerance value established for the soil in the FOTG as of January 1, 1990.

Erodibility Index (EI) =(R x K x LS)/T

Where:
R = the R value for the USLE
K = the soil map unit erodibility for USLE
LS = the slope and length factor for USLE.

A soil map unit with an EI equal to or greater than 8 is consider highly erodible land (HEL).

Included in this section are the following information needed to conduct HEL determinations:

- HEL Frozen Soil Lists
- Slope-Effect (LS) Values Table
- Rainfall Factor R Maps